

June-July 2014 Update

Our project has successfully moved into the Implementation Phase, on schedule and on budget. With the completion of the state contracting process, Xerox is now officially Vermont WIC's EBT contractor, and has started working with our MIS contractor, Ciber, to connect our MIS system Ceres with the Xerox EBT Host. Later this summer Xerox will begin working with our retailers to ready them for connecting to Xerox for online EBT transactions.

In addition to the many configurations of the new MIS to reflect Vermont WIC policies and procedures, state staff are also wrapping up the work on the new Approved Products List (APL), which is the database of Vermont WIC approved foods, including their UPC and PLU codes. Creating an APL with UPCs/PLUs is essential to implementing EBT, as grocers must be able to scan foods at checkout for comparison to the Vermont WIC APL, for WIC food purchases to be authorized. Along with the APL, the WIC food packages are being reviewed, revised, and configured in Ceres.

State IT team members from DII, AHS and VDI are working to prepare for "standing up" the servers that will host the Ceres MIS, and "talk" with the Xerox EBT host system. This is scheduled to take place in September. Once the Ceres application is successfully loaded to the state servers, testing of the interfaces between Ceres and Xerox will take place soon thereafter.

After a multi-criteria assessment (and in response to a spirited campaign by the interested staff), Vermont WIC has chosen RUTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE to serve as the pilot for our MIS/EBT implementation. We are on schedule for pilot to start at the end of May 2014, and run for three months. We'll then file our report with USDA/FNS and with their Go approval, start state roll-out in October 2014, with a new District being added every two weeks. The schedule for roll-out is being planned now.